

BIODIVERSITY AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF FRUIT FLY (Diptera: Tephritidae) IN DOMESTIC ORCHARDS OF PARAÍBA STATE, BRAZIL¹

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ABSTRACT - The objective of this study was to characterize, through faunistic indices, the populations of fruit flies in the Brejo Paraibano microregion and analyze whether these populations are similar to one another. The study was conducted in eight municipalities located in the Agreste Paraibano mesoregion and Brejo Paraibano microregion, Paraíba state, Brazil, where two rural properties of each municipality were selected, georeferenced and identified according to the diversity criterion of fruit species. Each municipality was assumed to have a population of fruit flies with its own characteristics, determined by the faunistic indices of frequency, constancy, dominance, Shannon-Wiener and Margalef diversity indices, as well as evenness. 3.159 specimens of fruit flies were captured, of which 85.57% belonged to the genus *Anastrepha* and 14.43% to the genus *Ceratitis*. 11 species of fruit flies were captured in the traps. *Anastrepha fraterculus* was the most frequent, dominant and constant species, being present in all locations; followed by *A. obliqua*, *A. sororcula* and *Ceratitis capitata*. The studied municipalities have a similarity of 54%, which indicates a high similarity between the areas. Most species captured in the present study occur at low population frequency.

Keywords: Population dynamics. Faunistic index. Similarity.

BIODIVERSIDADE E DISTRIBUIÇÃO POPULACIONAL DE MOSCAS-DAS-FRUTAS (Diptera: Tephritidae) EM POMARES DOMÉSTICOS DO ESTADO DA PARAÍBA, BRASIL

RESUMO - O trabalho teve por objetivo caracterizar, por meio de índices faunísticos, as populações de moscas-das-frutas no Brejo Paraibano, e analisar se essas populações são similares entre si. A pesquisa foi desenvolvida em oito municípios situados na Mesorregião do Agreste Paraibano e Microrregião do Brejo Paraibano, nos quais foram selecionadas duas propriedades rurais de cada município, georreferenciadas, identificadas segundo o critério de diversidade de espécies frutíferas. Cada município foi considerado como tendo uma população das moscas-das-frutas com características próprias, determinadas pelos índices faunísticos de frequência, constância, dominância, índices de diversidade de Shannon-Wiener e de Margalef, além de equitabilidade. Foram capturados 3.159 espécimes de moscas-das-frutas, dos quais 85,57% pertenciam ao gênero *Anastrepha* e 14,43% o gênero *Ceratitis*. Foram capturadas onze espécies de moscas-das-frutas nas armadilhas. *Anastrepha fraterculus* foi a espécie mais frequente, dominante e constante, estando presente em todas as localidades; seguida das espécies *A. obliqua*, *A. sororcula* e *Ceratitis capitata*. Os municípios estudados apresentam similaridade de 54%, o que indica alta semelhança entre as áreas. A maioria das espécies capturadas no presente estudo ocorre em baixa frequência populacional.

Palavras-chave: Dinâmica populacional. Índice faunístico. Similaridade.

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INTRODUCTION

The fruit flies of greatest economic importance in the country are basically *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann, 1824) and *Anastrepha* spp. (ZUCCHI, 2000a). The genus *Anastrepha* has 121 species in Brazil, which are found in all regions, infesting a great diversity of native and cultivated fruits (ZUCCHI; MORAES, 2008; NORRBOM et al., 2014). *Ceratitidis capitata* is an exotic species and the only representative of its kind in the country (ZUCCHI, 2000b). Despite the large number species of the genus *Anastrepha* described nationally, only 8 have been recorded in the state of Paraíba (ALVES et al., 2019a; ALVES et al., 2019b; SILVA et al., 2019).

Information on the faunistic analysis of tephritids is crucial for understanding the bioecology of these insects in different areas (MARSARO JÚNIOR et al., 2012). Therefore, several studies have been conducted around the world using food traps in order to know the diversity, monitor and/or control tephritids (ORDANO et al., 2013; TAIRA et al., 2013; ALI et al., 2014).

In adopting any program of integrated management of fruit flies in orchards, it is necessary to know some ecological aspects of these tephritids, such as the diversity of species present in orchards, frequency, dominance, constancy of species, among other faunistic parameters (AGUIAR-MENEZES et al., 2008).

Most faunistic studies on fruit flies conducted in orchards in several Brazilian states have demonstrated the dominance of only one or two species, even where high diversity was recorded (SÁ et al., 2012). Several factors, such as climate, orchard location and abundance and diversity of hosts, can influence fruit fly species.

The combination of taxonomic, biological and behavioral studies becomes a tool of great value for the real understanding of these organisms (DEUS; ADAIME, 2013). Thus, the objective of this study was to characterize, through faunistic analysis, the populations of fruit flies in the Brejo Paraibano microregion, besides analyzing whether these populations are similar to each other.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study area is located in the Agreste Paraíba mesoregion and Brejo Paraibano microregion, including the municipalities of Alagoa Grande (07° 01' 53.6" S, 35° 38' 12.1" W; 138 m), Alagoa Nova (07° 04' 56.3" S, 35° 48' 53.1" W; 463 m), Areia (6° 58' 03.4" S, 35° 42' 00.6" W; 573 m), Bananeiras (06° 43' 44.3" S, 35° 39' 24.0" W; 544 m), Borborema (06° 47' 37.7" S, 35° 35' 53.2" W; 330 m), Matinhas (07° 06' 40.0" S, 35° 49' 10.5" W;

574 m), Pilões (06° 56' 45.4" S, 35° 39' 38.2" W; 436 m) and Serraria (06° 49' 03.8" S, 35° 39' 19.4" W; 479 m). The study was conducted in two rural properties of each municipality, which were chosen based on the criterion of having domestic orchards that had crops that were hosts of fruit flies. In each property, two host crops were chosen and two traps were installed in each, totaling four traps, which were georeferenced and identified according to the diversity criterion of fruit species. The population survey was conducted from July 2015 to June 2016.

Adult individuals of fruit flies were obtained with traps made from PET-type bottles, each of which with three holes with 10cm in diameter, and these traps were installed in the host crops through hooks made with wires, with two traps/plant installed in each sampling area. The traps were placed at 1m30cm from the ground in the host crops, containing 300 mL of 5% hydrolyzed protein aqueous solution (BioAnastrepha[®]) as food attractant.

The containers were inspected every two weeks, and their food attractant was substituted and sent to the Laboratory of Zoology of Invertebrates of the Center of Agricultural Sciences of the Federal University of Paraíba - Areia / PB. The specimens of fruit flies were quantified, properly labeled and kept in 70% ethanol for specific later identification. *Anastrepha* species were identified based on morphological characters of females according to Zucchi (2000a). The specimens were deposited in the entomological collection of the Invertebrate Zoology Laboratory of the aforementioned institution. The collected females of the *Anastrepha* genus were identified by Dr. Clarice Diniz Alvarenga Corsato - State University of Montes Claros, Janaúba, MG.

Each municipality was assumed to have a population of fruit flies with its own characteristics, determined by the faunistic indices of frequency, constancy, dominance, Shannon-Wiener and Margalef diversity indices, as well as evenness (SILVEIRA NETO, 1990; SOUTHWOOD, 1995; PINTO-COELHO, 2000), justifying the following assessments:

Frequency: $pi = ni/N$, where ni : Number of individuals of the species and N : total number of individuals in the sample. It is the proportion of individuals of a species in relation to the total number of individuals in the sample.

Constancy: Percentage of samples in which a given species was present. $C = p.100/N$, where p : number of samples with the species and N : total number of samples considered. Classification of species regarding constancy: constant (present in more than 50% of the samples), accessory (present in 25-50% of the samples), accidental (present in less than 25% of the samples).

Richness (S): Total number of species observed in the community.

Number of dominant species: A species is

considered dominant when it has a frequency greater than $1/S$, where S is the total number of species in the community.

Shannon-Wiener (H'): Measures the degree of uncertainty in predicting to which species a randomly chosen individual will belong, from a sample with S species and N individuals.

Evenness: determined based on the ratio between the Shannon-Wiener diversity index (H') and the maximum diversity ($H'_{\max} = \ln S$).

Margalef: This index expresses the relationship between the number of species and the number of individuals of each species and represents the pattern in the use of niches by the species.

The similarity between municipalities in terms of the composition of fruit fly species was determined by the Jaccard's method between the representative samples of the municipalities, which calculates the mean similarity between the samples using the software Past version 3.22 (HAMMER; HARPER; RYAN, 2001).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the eight municipalities studied, 3.159 specimens of fruit flies were captured, of which 85.57% belonged to the genus *Anastrepha* (1.867 females and 836 males) and 14.43% to *Ceratitis* (330 females and 126 males). Ten species of *Anastrepha* were captured in the traps, represented by the species *A. antunesi* Lima, 1938, *A. barbiellini* Lima, 1938, *A. dissimilis* Stone, 1942, *A. distincta* Greene, 1934, *A. fraterculus* (Wiedemann, 1830), *A. hadropickeli* Canal, Uramoto and Zucchi, 2013, *A. obliqua* (Macquart, 1835), *A. pickeli* Lima, 1934, *A. sororcula* Zucchi, 1979, and *A. zenildae* Zucchi, 1979; while for the genus *Ceratitis* only one species was captured, *C. capitata* (Table 1).

Of the seven species of the fruit flies that are important from an economic point of view, due to the damage they cause to fruit crops (ZUCCHI; MORAES, 2012), four species were captured: *A. obliqua*, *A. fraterculus*, *A. sororcula* and *A. zenildae*.

Studies have reported that in the state of Paraíba, there are only eight species of *Anastrepha*, namely *A. antunesi*, *A. fraterculus*, *A. obliqua*, *A. serpentina* (Wiedmann, 1830), *A. sororcula* and *A. zenildae* (ZUCCHI; MORAES, 2008); and *A. dissimilis* and *A. hadropickeli* (ALVES et al., 2019a).

Anastrepha fraterculus was the most abundant species in the traps (39.33%), followed by *A. obliqua* (24.35%), *A. sororcula* (17.39%) and *C. capitata* (15.02%). The other species obtained an abundance of less than 50 specimens, totaling 3.91% of the total females collected.

Regarding species richness, differences were observed between the analyzed municipalities. The

highest richness was observed in Bananeiras and Serraria ($S = 8$) and the lowest richness was found in Borborema, Matinhas and Pilões ($S = 5$). This difference was determined by the capture of some species only in a given municipality. However, *A. fraterculus*, *A. obliqua* and *A. sororcula* occurred in the eight municipalities, and *C. capitata* was not captured only in Borborema (Table 1).

Studies conducted in several localities, with climate and vegetation similar to those observed in the present study, have also found low richness of fruit fly species. In southwestern Bahia, eight species were recorded in three municipalities (SÁ et al., 2012). The composition of the predominant species in each locality consisted of the species that reached the highest categories in the faunistic parameters used (abundance, dominance, frequency and constancy) (Table 1).

In relation to the predominant species, there was variation between the municipalities. Serraria (530), Bananeiras (491) and Areia (400) were the localities with highest abundance, resulting in the highest number of females captured among the eight municipalities (64.68% of the total females captured in all the traps installed).

Anastrepha fraterculus was the most frequent, dominant and constant species, being present in all localities, followed by *A. obliqua*, *A. sororcula* and *C. capitata*, which were frequent, dominant and constant in certain municipalities studied (Table 1), corroborating several studies involving the faunistic analysis of tephritids, which found the occurrence of two to three dominant species in different regions of Brazil (HUSCH et al., 2012; MARSARO JUNIOR et al., 2012; ARAUJO et al., 2013).

Species such as *A. antunesi*, *A. distincta*, *A. dissimilis* and *A. zenildae* were characterized as accidental and showed frequency of less than 3%. The occurrence of other less frequent species of fruit flies in orchards may be due to the presence of preferential host plants and/or native vegetation near the orchards, which may have contributed to the occurrence of accessory and/or accidental species in the samples collected (AZEVEDO et al., 2010).

Anastrepha pickeli, *A. hadropickeli* and *A. barbiellini* occurred sporadically, also accidentally, with only one female of each sampled species, in different locations (Alagoa Grande, Alagoa Nova and Bananeiras, respectively) (Table 1). These species within each agroecosystem suggest how wide the diversity of fruit flies is and how well adapted they are to the environment in which they live. The presence of rare species indicates that the areas contain specific hosts, which increase the diversity of fruit flies. In addition, for the stability of a community, species that are rare, although economically unimportant, perform important indirect functions for the survival and maintenance of diversity of the community.

Table 1. Characterization of fruit fly populations captured in traps, through faunistic analysis, in eight municipalities of the Brejo Paraibano microregion.

BREJO PARAIBANO															
SPECIES	ALAGOA GRANDE				LAGOA NOVA				AREIA				BANANEIRAS		
	N	F	C	D	N	F	C	D	N	F	C	D	N	F	C
<i>A. fraterculus</i>	1	1.11	Z	N	126	40.00	W	D	265	66.25	W	D	131	26.68	W
<i>A. obliqua</i>	17	18.89	W	D	11	3.49	Z	N	77	19.25	W	D	52	10.59	Y
<i>A. sororcula</i>	1	1.11	Z	N	123	39.05	W	D	30	7.50	Y	N	158	32.18	W
<i>A. antunesi</i>	-	-			-	-			11	2.75	Z	N	10	2.04	Z
<i>A. distincta</i>	2	2.22	Z	N	2	0.63	Z	N	1	0.25	Z	N	14	2.85	Z
<i>A. dissimilis</i>	-	-			1	0.32	Z	N	-	-			-	-	
<i>A. zenildae</i>	-	-			-	-			2	0.50	Z	N	4	0.81	Z
<i>A. pickeli</i>	1	1.11	Z	N	-	-			-	-			-	-	
<i>A. hadropickeli</i>	-	-			1	0.32	Z	N	-	-			-	-	
<i>A. barbiellini</i>	-	-			-	-			-	-			1	0.20	Z
<i>C. capitata</i>	68	75.56	W	D	51	16.19	W	D	14	3.50	Z	N	121	24.64	Y
Total	90				315				400				491		
S	6				7				7				8		
H'	0.8				1.2				1.0				1.5		
E	0.4				0.6				0.5				0.7		
α	1.1				1.0				1.0				1.1		

BREJO PARAIBANO															
SPECIES	BORBOREMA				MATINHAS				PILÕES				SERRARIA		
	N	F	C	D	N	F	C	D	N	F	C	D	N	F	C
<i>A. fraterculus</i>	184	75.41	W	D	12	33.33	W	D	73	80.22	W	D	72	13.58	Y
<i>A. obliqua</i>	20	8.20	Z	N	11	30.56	Y	D	10	10.99	Y	N	337	63.58	W
<i>A. sororcula</i>	27	11.07	Y	N	8	22.22	Y	D	5	5.49	Y	N	30	5.66	Z
<i>A. antunesi</i>	10	4.10	Z	N	-	-			-	-			6	1.13	Z
<i>A. distincta</i>	3	1.23	Z	N	-	-			-	-			2	0.38	Z
<i>A. dissimilis</i>	-	-			1	2.78	Z	N	1	1.10	Z	N	8	1.51	Z
<i>A. zenildae</i>	-	-			-	-			-	-			5	0.94	Z
<i>A. pickeli</i>	-	-			-	-			-	-			-	-	
<i>A. hadropickeli</i>	-	-			-	-			-	-			-	-	
<i>A. barbiellini</i>	-	-			-	-			-	-			-	-	
<i>C. capitata</i>	-	-			4	11.11	Y	N	2	2.20	Z	N	70	13.21	Y
Total	244				36				91				530		
S	5				5				5				8		
H'	0.8				1.4				0.7				1.2		
E	0.5				0.9				0.4				0.6		
α	0.7				1.1				0.9				1.1		

N= Number of flies captured (females); F= Relative frequency (%); C= Constancy (w = constant, y = accessory and z = accidental); D= Dominance (d= dominant and n= non-dominant); S= Richness; H'= Shannon-Wiener diversity index; E= Evenness and α = Margalef diversity index.

Most species captured in the present study occurred at low population frequency. These species may have come from more distant hosts in relation to the place where the traps were installed and were

eventually captured because of the attractiveness of the traps and the respective food attractants during their activity of exploring the environment. This fact has also been observed by Dutra et al. (2009) and

Santos et al. (2011) in Bahia. Ferrara et al. (2005) highlighted that surveys made with traps probably enable the capture of fruit flies from more diverse vegetation, compared to the methodology of collecting tephritids through fruits.

According to the Shannon index, there was a difference in diversity between the areas, ranging from 0.7 to 1.5, and the municipality of Bananeiras had the highest value, confirming the highest number of fruit fly species captured ($S = 8$) among the other municipalities. The lowest value of this index was recorded for the municipality of Pilões, which can occur in areas where limiting factors and intraspecific competition act intensely on the population. Thus, in these areas the most common and dominant species increase their populations and the others have a low population level (Table 1).

The evenness index (E) ranged from 0.4 to 0.9, and the municipalities of Alagoa Grande (0.4) and Pilões (0.4) had the lowest indices. The low evenness in these areas was due to the higher occurrence of two species with frequency greater than 75%, namely *C. capitata* and *A. fraterculus*, respectively (Table 1). The same situation has been observed by Dutra et al. (2009) and Santos et al. (2011) in orchards located in the state of Bahia, where only two species of *Anastrepha* showed high frequency compared to the other species captured.

The Margalef diversity indices obtained were low, ranging from 0.7 to 1.1 (Table 1). According to Margalef (1972), this index rarely exceeds the value of 4.5, usually ranging from 1.5 to 3.5, where low values result from the higher dominance of some taxonomic groups to the detriment of the majority (BEGON; HARPER; TOWNSEND, 1996). The

results of the present study demonstrate the occurrence of few dominant species of fruit flies, with populations of many individuals, in the eight municipalities studied (Table 1). The results are similar to those obtained by Canal, Alvarenga and Zucchi (1998), who also obtained low diversity indices for fruit fly populations in northern Minas Gerais (1.19 to 2.26). The amount of fruit fly species captured by these authors did not vary greatly between municipalities, but the frequency of dominant species was always much higher, contrary to non-dominant species, represented only by some specimens.

In general, the low values of the indices found in all localities are due to the low diversity of fruit fly host plants, compared with diversified orchards or forests, which favors a low diversity of fruit fly species and the increase in the number of individuals of the most common species, as in the case of *A. fraterculus*, which prevailed in all orchards studied (AGUIAR-MENEZES et al., 2008; FERRAZ; GADELHA; AGUIAR-COELHO, 2009).

As for the composition of fruit fly species, the populations of Bananeiras, Borborema, Areia and Serraria (Group 1) were more similar to one another, forming a group different from that of the fruit fly populations of Alagoa Nova, Alagoa Nova, Matinhas and Pilões (Group 2) (Figure 1). In group 1, there was a 66% quotient of similarity among the species, and all species captured in Borborema (*A. fraterculus*, *A. obliqua*, *A. sororcula*, *A. antunesi* and *A. distincta*) were present in Bananeiras, Areia and Serraria. However, the greatest similarity observed in group 1 was between Areia and Bananeiras, with 88% of similar species.

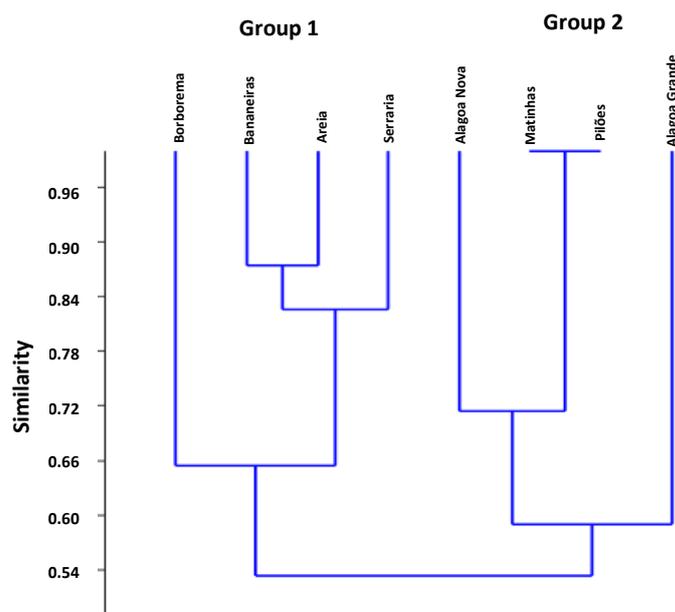


Figure 1. Cluster analysis between the eight municipalities of the Brejo Paraibano microregion (Group 1 – Borborema, Bananeiras, Areia and Serraria; Group 2 – Alagoa Nova, Matinhas, Pilões and Alagoa Grande), regarding the composition of fruit fly species, based on the quotient of similarity calculated by the Jaccard method (June/2015 - July/2016).

The differences in species composition may be related, at least in part, to the variation in the composition of fruit fly host plants in the municipalities. In group 2, there was a quotient of similarity of 60% among the species, as almost all species contained in Alagoa Grande (*A. fraterculus*, *A. obliqua*, *A. sororcula*, *A. distincta* and *C. capitata*) were present in the other localities. The highest quotient of similarity observed in group 2 was between Matinhas and Pilões, with 100% equality between the species of these areas (Figure 1).

What can explain these clusters is the vegetation existing near the sampling areas of the municipalities studied, as suggested by Canal, Alvarenga and Zucchi (1998). These authors observed that in the urban area of the municipalities of Janaúba and Nova Porteirinha, MG, the fruit fly populations were 100% similar, while in the municipalities of Jaíba and Mociminho, MG, located close to the native forest, the similarity between the populations was only 75%.

The similarity obtained by the Jaccard method among all the municipalities studied was equal to 54%, which indicates a high similarity between these orchards, in relation to species composition. Aguiar-Menezes et al. (2008) also obtained a quotient of similarity above 50% among diversified orchards in the state of Rio de Janeiro. According to Aguiar-Menezes et al. (2008) and Sá et al. (2012), the composition of host plants near the sampled orchards can influence the composition of species; in this case, the composition of plants contained in the orchards that were analyzed is virtually the same, composed mainly of plants that are part of the scenario of the Brejo Paraibano microregion.

CONCLUSIONS

Anastrepha fraterculus, *A. obliqua* and *A. sororcula* are present in the eight studied municipalities of the Brejo Paraibano microregion.

Anastrepha fraterculus is the most frequent, dominant and constant species.

Most species captured in the present study occur at low population frequency.

The municipalities studied have similarity of 54%, which indicates a high similarity between the areas.

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